

any use for it anymore after that. It does have the emergency clause on because without it why it wouldn't help us too much. We have created quite a tradition on our license plates in Nebraska whether we want to admit it or not. Remember...remember last year when we were debating the issue and going to change the numbering system, the one that we now have, and go to the alphanumerical system, if I can remember correctly, we advanced the bill with the new numbering system and then we changed it the following Monday or Tuesday after we received all those telephone calls over the weekend. The people wanted their old numbers back and so we must realize that many Nebraskans have been attached to the same number license plates for many years. I became aware of this problem early last fall when some of the county treasurers in my legislative district contacted me. Also, I had a number of constituents contact me and I would like to share an example with you. One gentleman, and he was an elderly gentleman, I believe he was 79 years old, told me that he had had the same number, the same number since 1922. This would be 62 years, and this is the first year that we began the licensing numbering system. He said that he had become very attached to it. I also had many other letters and calls and they told me about the same story. So, personally, I feel that if we can help them, we should try. I don't want to spend much money and I don't think we are in trying to correct this problem, and I don't want to spend much time in the Legislature either. We have many other important things to do. But I don't think that the fiscal impact on this is too bad, in fact, it is just minimal. I have worked with many people on this proposal. I have worked with the county treasurer. I have worked with department heads of the Motor Vehicles Department, of the Corrections Department. We...Senator Sieck has also received an Attorney General's Opinion on a question that he asked and I won't go into that. This is on page 418 and 419 in the Journal, but I am hopeful that he will say a few words about this. I feel that the county treasurers have been severely and unfairly criticized by some of the motorists because they can't retain their current plate number and this bill would allow them to do that. But, really, I believe it is the Legislature's fault and I am willing to take part of that blame because when we were debating the issue last year we got tied up on the slogan on the plate and also some other controversial issue on the